Dear Sir   August 26 1778

your favour of the 5th instant
is just come to hand, I should like very well to See
the Speach you mention and the reply, but would not
desire it till you have full lisence to communicate
it, — I wish I could give you such intelligence from
Rhode Island as I hoped to, but notwithstanding we
have men of Sence & Letters many of them there
we do not get Authentick intelligence, tis a week
since the French fleet returnd. yet to this day we
know not whether she had any engagement with
How or not, we are told that they were much Dam
aged & are comeing round to Boston to repair, and
that in consequence of that the Seige of Rhode Island
is like to be raised, I own I am Mortified, because
I never before saw the people so zealous, or so much
engaged & determined, I thought it portended success
to our Arms — no expence has been spaired —

I will not censure, I know
not circumstances sufficiently, but I wish we had
succeeded tho at the expence of many Lives —

I wish them to recollect the
Maxims of one of the greatest Statesman in World - Sully
that we ought neither to adventure upon rash
attempts from too much confidence nor to Dispair

of Success in a great design from the appearence of difficulties, in bold & different enterprizes we should endeavour to subdue one obstacle at a time, nor suffer ourselves to be depressed by their greatness and their number. *we ought never to dispair of what has been once accomplished*

How many things have the idea of impossible been annexed to, that have become easy to those who knew how to take advantage of time opportunity lucky moments, the faults of others, different dispositions and an infinate number of circumstances,,

I never had all the confidence in the world ~~of~~ in the abilities of the - - - courage I believe he has a sufficient portion of - but an unfortunate general is always supposed to be a culpable one, - tho the censure may sometimes be unjust, the Large 74 Gun Ship call'd the Ceasar which parted company from the Fleet fell in with an English Ship & fought her but two more comeing up obliged her to quit and to come into Boston -

we have had the Hottest Summer I ever remember, I am

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this moment almoſt melted, & this is the 5 day
of such voilent Heat, - you will therefore excuſe
my sending you this Scrawl in a greater Disha
=bill than uſual — your Friends were all well
yesterday, the first cool day I expect to bring your
Sister Hannah to tarry with me, = no news
from the Far country - no Letters no veſsels
high ho — ten times ~~i~~ in an hour
I wiſh I had a Bird of paſsage —

adieu continue your
correſpondence with unremitted aſsiduity & know
that you greatly oblige

Portia

I am greatly hurried, the perſon who is to take
this waits excuse every thing & purify by fire
I am conſcious I sometime write better

Mrs. Adams
26 Augt. 1778.

To

Mr John Thaxter

Philadelphia

MS Am 229 (6)

RU 576 (2)